

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request further examination and reconsideration in view of the instant response. Claims 48 and 50-83 remain pending in the case. Claims 71-80 are allowed. Claims 48, 53-57 and 61 are rejected. Claims 49-52, 58-60, 62-70 and 81-83 are objected to. Claim 49 is cancelled herein without prejudice. Claims 48, 65 and 81 are amended herein. No new matter has been added.

Applicants respectfully note Claim 57 is identified as being rejected on the Office Action Summary for the Office Action mailed May 10, 2006, but that no basis for the rejection of Claim 57 is provided in the accompanying Detailed Action. Accordingly, Applicants have not provided a discussion of the rejection of Claim 57 herein.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the indication that 71-80 are allowed. Moreover, Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the indication that Claims 49-52, 58-60, 62-70 and 83 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including the limitations of the base Claim and any intervening Claims. Applicants have amended independent Claim 48 herein to include the limitations of Claim 49. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 50-52, 58-60, 62-70 and 83 are in condition for allowance. Furthermore, Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the indication that Claims 81 and 82 would be

allowable if rewritten to correct an objection and in independent form including the limitations of the base Claim and any intervening Claims.

Claims Objections

Claims 81 and 82 are objected to because of an informality. Claim 81 is amended herein correcting the informality. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 81 and 82 overcome the objection.

35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 48 and 53 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by of U.S. Patent No. 5,737,342 by Ziporovich et al., hereinafter referred to as the "Ziporovich" reference. Applicants have amended independent Claim 48 to include the limitations of Claim 49. Claim 49 was indicated by the Examiner as being allowable if rewritten in independent form including the limitations of the base Claim and any intervening Claims. Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 48 is allowable, and that a discussion of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) is moot at this time. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 53, which is dependent on Claim 48, is also in a condition for allowance as being dependent on an allowable base claim.

35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 54-56 and 61 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ziporovich in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,401,168 by Williams et

al., hereinafter referred to as the "Williams" reference. Claims 54-56 and 61 depend from independent Claim 48. As described above, Applicants have amended independent Claim 48 to include the limitations of Claim 49. Claim 49 was indicated by the Examiner as being allowable if rewritten in independent form including the limitations of the base Claim and any intervening Claims. Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 48 is allowable, and that a discussion of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is moot at this time. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 54-56 and 61, which are dependent on Claim 48, are also in a condition for allowance as being dependent on an allowable base claim

CONCLUSION

In light of the above remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejected claims. Based on the arguments presented above, Applicants respectfully assert that Claims 48, 53-56 and 61 overcome the rejections of record. Moreover, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 48 and 50-83 are in condition for allowance and, therefore, Applicants respectfully solicit allowance of these Claims.

The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative if the Examiner believes such action would expedite resolution of the present Application.

Respectfully submitted,

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